

LEE BARRETT

**Coordinator • Coon Creek Restoration Project
Spring & Fall Chinook • Steelhead Rainbow
Open Space • Wetlands**

P. O. Box 3419
Auburn, California 95604
530/878-2220
FAX 530/823-9206

June 29, 1998

Mr. Rick Breitenbach
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Comments on Alternative #1, #2, #3, Phase II

Dear Mr. Breitenbach:

I appreciate all the great work you and your colleagues are doing on such a most complex and daunting program. With all the technical and scientific expertise and advice CALFED has advanced considerably in one and a half years, and I would like to personally thank all participants. How to unite water agencies, industry, cities and counties, agriculture and environmentalists to common solutions seems impossible . . . but hopefully not. The state and federal agencies as overseers are excellent along with Governor Pete Wilson in starting the Bay-Delta Accord.

As environmentalists, we are still viewed as people without any tolerance or compromise . . . but that's untrue. Just look at the decline of our environment. It speaks for itself. At CALFED meetings (e.g., Roundtable, BDAC, tech, scientific, etc.), it gives all participants an opportunity and that's very good. I'm a 64-year-old volunteer who hopes to slow down the self-destructive worldwide mode we're in. But how?

Now to alternatives on Phase II. My choice would be Alternative 2, because I believe Alternative 3 could be added later, if necessary. The following list indicates priorities for making this decision.

Agriculture. Only about 10% of agriculture water is being metered through conservation practices (e.g. drip systems, recollective ponds on farms, ag water from sewage treatment plants - partially treated). Retire or fallow farm land especially water hungry crops that don't belong in the lower San Joaquin Valley (e.g., cotton, etc.). The city of San Diego is implementing a recycling program now and hopes to have

20% sewage to fresh water in the next few years. Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) wants to build a new treatment plant near the proposed Lincoln Regional Sewage Plant to recycle fresh water for domestic use. A desalinization plant near Santa Barbara is still sitting idle. Why?? With gene spicing, some crops can go brackish. Let's take a look.

Water storage is necessary. One site near Woodland was mentioned, this idea seems perfect to me. Let the water flow through constantly only downstream have restricted flow by confinement (e.g. like rice paddies). Let Army Corps and Ducks Unlimited work it out to turn those into wetlands. (We've lost 95% of the wetlands in state) use reeds and cattails for filtration. The nine state floods in 1994 in the Midwest were the worst on record. On the Mississippi River, the Army Corps is putting land outside the levies back into wetlands. The many benefits including storing flood water and releasing it slowing along with filtration.

Levies need to be widened where possible, with wetlands placed on each side and trees planted for protection of young fish, food source, cool water down. Last October (1997), I was invited on the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) research vessel, "San Carlos" for a tour of the Delta along with 25 members of the "Spring Run Chinook Workshop Group." There aren't enough wetlands in the Delta - build more - there were 345,000 acres long ago which have been reduced to a present number of 8,000 acres- this isn't fair. Give DWR funding to increase this. Ducks Unlimited could help, maybe. I've read some Delta Islands are thirty to thirty-five feet below sea level. I've read the Army Corps has bought, or is purchasing, some islands to revert back to wetlands. Again, let the water pass through, filter it with nature and store for lean times.

Dredging is necessary on the high sediment streams and rivers. We need to consider dredging starting near the base of Nimbus Dam. The flood plan for Sacramento calls for raising and strengthening the levies on the American River. We need to lower the stream bed on the American River and others by dredging, recycling the gravel and rock back in and curing the height and armoring of the stream beds. They're built up so high now, they need maintenance. Take the sediment to Delta islands to recycle for wetlands. The growing of artichokes in the Delta is being explored and should work.

Toxins will always be with us. I've attended a few CAL-E.P.A. CVWQCB (Toxic Committee) workshop groups and the problems are vast. A fish tissue sample taken for the Toxic Committee showed many toxins. The committee is still in the monitoring stage and as they are funded, will try to track sources. An immediate response could be to contact a professor at U.C.D. who specializes in reeds and sedges for filtration and see what needs to be done.

Predators on young native fish is man-made; but with someone like Professor Peter Moyle and others, I'm sure this problem can be solved. State F.&G., U.S.F.&W.S.-A.F.R.P. have some good biologists, as well as private fish scientists who could give solid advice. I wish to end it here.

In closing, I'm in great appreciation to Secretary Bruce Babbitt for meeting with Governor Pete Wilson to extend the comment period from June 1 to July 1. I believe CALFED will receive more ideas because of it. The treasure of the CALFED Program and the Delta need to be saved at all costs . . . period. It is priceless! Again, Alternative 2 with strings attached. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to have input.

Sincerely,



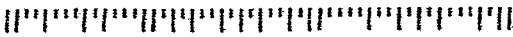
Lee Barrett, Coordinator

LB/ed

LEE BARRETT
P.O. Box 3419
AUBURN CA 95604

JUN 30 1998

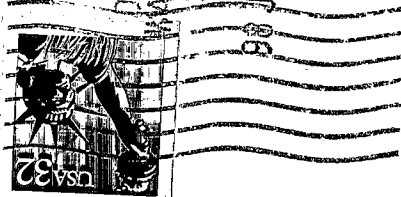
35B14/5503



CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM-ATTENTION
MR. RICK BREITBACH
1416 NINTA STREET SUITE #1158
SACRAMENTO, CA. 95814



JUN 30 AM



C-013227

C-013227